

## Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, UK, EI

SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON POLICE MISTREATMENT  
IN NORTHERN IRELAND

REFS: A. 77 BELFAST A-9, B. 77 BELFAST 329, C. PARA NINE  
LONDON 7823

1. SUMMARY: THE UK AND IRISH PRESS HAS GOTTEN HOLD OF THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON ITS INVESTIGATION OF LAST YEAR (REFS B AND C) AND IS PUBLISHING DETAILS BEFORE THE REPORT HAS BEEN MADE PUBLIC. AMNESTY'S PRINCIPAL CONCLUSION REPORTEDLY IS THAT EVIDENCE OF POLICE MISTREATMENT OF SUSPECTS IS ENOUGH TO WARRANT A PUBLIC INQUIRY. CRITICS OF THE POLICE -- MOST ASSOCIATED WITH THE REPUBLICAN CAUSE -- SECOND THE DEMAND FOR AN INQUIRY, AND SOME USE THE REPORT AS A WEAPON IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT THE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY. AUTHORITIES ARE NOT COMMENTING PENDING PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT AND OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE "SUNDAY TIMES" OF LONDON REPORTED ON THE AMNESTY DOCUMENT JUNE 4, AND THE NEXT DAY DUBLIN'S "IRISH TIMES" QUOTED WITH APPARENT AUTHORITY THE OVERALL CONCLUSIONS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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RECOMMENDATIONS. THE LATTER PAPER SAID THE REPORT WAS 70 PAGES LONG AND DETAILED 78 INDIVIDUAL CASES OF ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OF SUSPECTS BY PLAINCLOTHES RUC DETECTIVES. THE CONCLUSIONS AS QUOTED ARE WORDED CAREFULLY, AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE SPECIFIC:

(A) "ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO IT, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BELIEVES THAT MALTREATMENT OF SUSPECTED

TERRORISTS BY THE RUC HAS TAKEN PLACE WITH SUFFICIENT FREQUENCY TO WARRANT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE IT."

(2) THE EROSION OF RIGHTS OF TERRORIST SUSPECTS HAS "HELPED CREATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH MALTREATMENT OF SUSPECTS HAS TAKEN PLACE."

(3) THE MACHINERY FOR INVESTIGATING COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE ASSAULT IS NOT ADEQUATE.

(4) THE PUBLIC INQUIRY SHOULD CONSIDER RULES RELATING TO INTERROGATION AND DETENTION, ADMISSIBILITY OF STATEMENTS, AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE. IT SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ALL RELEVANT DATA ON CASES OF ALLEGED MALTREATMENT.

(5) PENDING SUCH AN INQUIRY, THE RUC SHOULD IMMEDIATELY IMPROVE THE PROTECTION OF SUSPECTS AGAINST MALTREATMENT. ACCESS TO LAWYERS "AT AN EARLY STAGE OF DETENTION" IS ESSENTIAL.

3. COMMENT: AMNESTY APPARENTLY HAS PUT ITS FINGER ON SEVERAL SENSITIVE POINTS (REF A): LAWS DEALING WITH TERRORIST CRIME GIVE POLICE GREATER LEEWAY THAN THEY NORMALLY HAVE, AND THE RUC CHIEF CONSTABLE ACKNOWLEDGES CASES OF MISTREATMENT. THE POLICE THEMSELVES INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE. IN THE VIRTUAL ABSENCE OF WITNESSES, CONFESSIONS ARE ABNORMALLY IMPORTANT IN THE PROSECUTION OF A CASE. AND SUSPECTS ARE NORMALLY NOT ALLOWED TO SEE LAWYERS DURING THE INITIAL PERIOD OF QUESTIONING. STOUT

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## Message Attributes

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